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HOUSE BILL 551

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Ray Begaye

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; EXTENDING ELIGIBILITY FOR LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIPS TO TRIBAL COLLEGES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 21-1-4.3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1996, Chapter 71, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

"21-1-4.3. TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS AUTHORIZED-- CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. --

A. To the extent that funds are made available by the legislature from the lottery tuition fund, the boards of regents of New Mexico state university, New Mexico institute of mining and technology, eastern New Mexico university, western New Mexico university, the university of New Mexico, New Mexico highlands university and northern New Mexico state school and the governing boards of regionally accredited tribal colleges

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1 located in New Mexico shall award tuition scholarships for
2 qualified resident students attending their respective
3 institutions and branches of those institutions.

4 B. Except as authorized in Subsection C of this
5 section, the tuition scholarships authorized in this section
6 shall apply only to full-time resident students who,
7 immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at a
8 public or accredited private New Mexico high school or upon
9 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, are accepted for
10 entrance to and attend one of the state educational
11 institutions set forth in this section or one of the branches
12 of those institutions. Each tuition scholarship shall be
13 awarded for up to four consecutive years beginning the second
14 semester of the recipient's first year of enrollment, provided
15 that the recipient has maintained residency in New Mexico and
16 maintained a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0
17 scale during ~~[his]~~ the first semester of full-time enrollment.

18 C. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
19 section shall also apply to full-time resident students who,
20 immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at a
21 public or accredited private New Mexico high school or upon
22 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, attend a two-year
23 public post-secondary educational institution in New Mexico and
24 who, upon the completion of that curriculum or at the end of
25 two years, whichever is sooner, transfer to one of the post-

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1 secondary state educational institutions set forth in this
2 section. Those students shall be eligible for a tuition
3 scholarship for two consecutive years, provided that those
4 students maintain residency in New Mexico, maintain a grade
5 point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale and attend the
6 institution full time during the regular academic year.

7 D. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
8 section shall also apply to full-time resident students who:

9 (1) within one hundred twenty days of
10 completion of a high school curriculum at a public or
11 accredited private New Mexico high school, or of receiving a
12 graduate equivalent diploma, begin service in the United States
13 armed forces; and

14 (2) within one hundred twenty days of
15 completion of honorable service or medical discharge from the
16 service are accepted for entrance to and attend one of the
17 state educational institutions set forth in this section.

18 E. The commission on higher education shall prepare
19 guidelines setting forth explicit student continuing
20 eligibility criteria and guidelines for administration of the
21 tuition scholarship program. Guidelines shall be distributed
22 to the board of regents of each institution to enable a uniform
23 availability of the resident student tuition scholarships. "